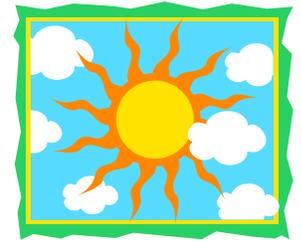


THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2013



INTERIM CO-PASTORS' MESSAGE

This past month we lost one of the spiritual giants of 21st Century Christianity: Dallas Willard. Author of one of the key books on Christian discipleship, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life with Christ*, Willard unlocked an understanding of the Kingdom of God that many of us too often ignore—the Kingdom of God is available to us here and now and not just when we die.

To a question asked about his recommendation of one thing that would bring new energy to spiritual life, Dallas Willard replied, "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life, for hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our world today."

Jesus was a busy man. He entered; he taught; he rebuked; he left; he entered; he healed; the whole city gathered; they brought him the sick; he healed. He was in constant action available to all around him! In the midst of this frantic activity, we find Jesus in an oasis of quiet and solitude: "In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed." (Mark 1:35)

Action followed by withdrawal. This little verse about Jesus in a solitary place forces us to look at the dangers of the way we live today. The danger is not of an active life, for Jesus' own life was certainly very active.

The danger is activism, a kind of drivenness, a sense that the value of our lives is based on the level of our activity, how many people need us, how very busy we are. For many of us, the activity seldom stops, the input, the noise never abates. There's almost never that quiet space in which we think about who we are and where we are going. In the constant noise and activity, we cannot hear what Elijah heard at the mountain cave, the still small voice. And we lose our sense of play. Kathleen Norris says, "The danger is that we will come to feel too useful, so full of purpose and the necessity of fulfilling obligations that we lose sight of God's play with creation, and with ourselves."

As Henri Nouwen puts it,

"Somewhere we know that without a lonely place our lives are in danger. Somewhere we know that without silence, words lose their meaning; that without listening, speaking no longer heals. Somewhere we know that without a lonely place, actions quickly become empty gestures. The careful balance between silence and words, withdrawal and involvement, distance and closeness, solitude and community, forms the basis for the Christian life."

Somewhere deep inside we know that without a lonely place, a place of solitude, quiet and prayer, God does not have much opportunity to shape our lives.

Madeleine L'Engle in *Walking on Water*, wrote:

"When I am constantly running there is no time for being. I will never understand the silent dying of the green pie-apple tree if I do not slow down and listen to what the Spirit is telling me,

INTERIM CO-PASTORS' MESSAGE (continued)

telling me of the death of trees, the death of planets, of people, and what all these deaths mean in the light of love of the Creator, who brought them all into being, who brought me into being, and you. This questioning of the meaning of being, and dying and being, is behind the telling of stories around tribal fires at night; behind the drawing of animals on the walls of caves; the singing of melodies of love in spring, and of the death of green in autumn. It is part of the deepest longing of the human psyche, a recurrent ache in the hearts of all God's creatures. So when the two messages, *Listen to the silence. Stay open to the voice of the Spirit*, and *Slow me down, Lord*, came, I was forced to listen, and even to smile...."

Yes, life is busy, time is precious. Many of us struggle with incessant demands. We're harried by our jobs, pushed by our obligations, busy with our families. Taking a quick look at our lives, the very idea of time alone with God and our own souls seems impossible. But is it?

Someone suggested that for many of us overly involved, multi-tasking, time-driven people, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It's that we will become so distracted and rushed and pre-occupied that we will settle for some bland, watered-down version of it. We will live some banal, superficial outward thing called Christianity, and never know the deep satisfaction of the "abundant life" that Jesus promised.

As we enter into ordinary time in the Christian liturgical year, we find ourselves in lazy and hazy days of summer. Summer is a great time to begin the journey of "ruthlessly eliminating hurry from our lives." We can relax and engage in soul-full living...

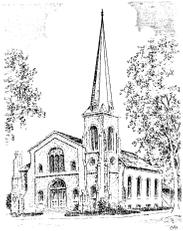
Lacy Finn Borgo in Renovaré's Family Devotional for the Summer, "Kingdom Come!" encourages us to "try fasting from the word 'hurry.' Hurry becomes a way we hide in our bodies. If we hurry from one thing to the next, we don't have to confront the condition of our spirit. Children usually don't engage in hurry. That's why I'm heard several times a day saying things like, 'Will you please hurry and put your shoes on,' or 'Hurry and finish your homework.' Hurry also separates us from each other. Hurry is something we do alone. Try fasting from the word 'hurry,' for just one day. Invite your children to hold you accountable. Observe how your spirit catches up with your body."

The mystery of our formation in and into the likeness of Christ is that we are not alone! Jesus is always and always with us guiding, leading, nurturing, inspiring, challenging, ... to expand our daily living into the life-giving joy, abundance, and power of God. This clip-art of Jesus, the Dude, enjoying the summer, is a reminder that God is intimately involved in every season of our lives.

We pray that you will be inspired to waste time with God!

Pastors James and Banu

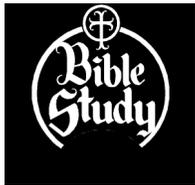
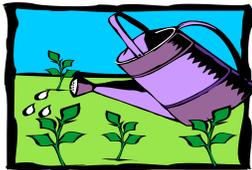




**CORNERS AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden committee is looking for a few volunteers to help out in the gardens once again this summer. Duties include watering and light weeding. If you are interested please sign up for a week. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in front of the office. Thanks!



The Thursday morning Bible Study and the Prayer Group are on vacation until fall. The exact start-up date will be announced later this summer.

SYMPATHIES are extended to Kathy Strack and her family on the death of her father, Bill, May 3rd.



OUTREACH & MISSION TEAM

Food Pantry

The Corning Community Food Pantry numbers for the month of April 2013 are:

- Households served - 603
- Children served - 719
- Adults served - 1174
- Elderly served - 149
- Total number of individuals served 2042

The daffodils and tulips are in full bloom and spring is finally evident. The above April statistics are also evidence that the hunger issue in our area is growing. The number of individuals coming into the Pantry on a monthly basis continues to increase dramatically. Pantry volunteers are working hard each day to meet the challenge of helping those who come into the building with their food needs.

How can you help? Please consider adding a row of plants to your garden to donate to the Pantry this year. Collect and donate canned goods such as soups, fruits and vegetables.



Check your closets and donate to the Pantry any gently used summer clothing, especially for children. Send any monetary donations to: Corning Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 1255, Corning, NY 14830.



We and the individuals we serve appreciate your dedication to the hunger issue and any help you can offer.

SUMMER HOURS

Summer hours will begin on Monday, June 17th. The church will be open from 9:00 a.m. until noon, Monday through Friday. Since vacations are scattered throughout the summer, if you need to know when the church will be open in the afternoon, please call the church office at 937-5419.



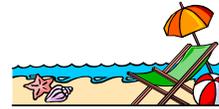
OUR DAILY BREAD

The latest edition (June, July, August) is available in the Narthex, in the back of the sanctuary, and in the office. This daily inspirational booklet is offered to you free of charge.

SUMMER PLEDGE REMINDER

Summer and vacation time is almost here! Although the activities at the church slow down during the summer, we still have bills that need to be met.

You can mail your pledges to the church office if you are unable to attend Sunday services. Have a great summer!



PRAYER CORNER



It is devotion that brings changes in the Christian life. George Washington Carver labored for years to explore the values of the peanut. As a result of countless hours of painstaking experiments, he discovered more than 150 products that could be drawn from that lowly plant and revolutionized the economy of the South in the process. When asked how he accomplished so much with the peanut, he replied in words whose application to meditation is obvious: "Anything will yield its secrets if you love it enough."

God Up Close / Doug McIntosh

MONTH OF JUNE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 2 Ken Baer
- 4 Doris Randall
- 9 Jim Robinson
- 11 Carlton Fawcett
Alyson Sharman
- 14 Jacquelyn Jones
- 15 Peggy Schuckers
Nicole Ecker
- 16 Gil Creelman
Elisabeth Tober
- 17 Kathryn Baker
* Michael Sheldon
* Caroline Sheldon
* Noah Sharman
- 18 Grace Kelly
* Carly Morrisey
- 19 Charlene Hevey
- 21 Chris Sharman
- 22 Margaret Brill
- 24 * Charlotte Rogus
* Emma Rogus
* Natalie Rogus
- 25 Angus Craig
- 26 Galer Perreault
- 28 Lloyd Young
Dorothy Watson
Diana Neuner
- 30 Charlie McLaren

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 2 John & Meredith Watts
- 3 Roger & Rosalie Grigsby
- 4 Mike & Becky DeRosa
- 11 Eric & April Millhollen
- 12 David & Diane Rudy
- 17 Doug & Tracey Kelly
- 30 Skip & Alice Moore
Keith & Jennifer McEwen



Members, *children under 18, and non-member participants for whom we have birthday and anniversary information.

If we miss your special day, please call the church office so we can get you entered on our calendar.

THE MESSENGER

First Presbyterian Church
1 East First Street
Corning, New York 14830

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Jesus Is
Our
Focus
In All
We Do

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1 EAST FIRST STREET
CORNING, NEW YORK 14830**

Reverends James & Banu Moore, Interim Pastors
Home Phone: 607-654-7875
Cell Phone: 607-664-7876

Interim Pastors' Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - noon

Church Phone: 607-937-5419
Church Fax: 607-937-9731

Church Hours: Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - noon & 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(until June 14th)
9:00 a.m. - noon (starting June 17th)

Church Email: office@corningpresby.org
Visit us on the web: www.corningpresby.org

**Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. (June 9th is the last
Sunday School class until fall)**
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time: 11:30 a.m.



2013

The Messenger is published monthly.

DEADLINE for July Messenger articles is June 15th. Articles may either be emailed to the church or left in the church office. Any information received after the 15th will appear in the August issue.